

## 2 Samuel 22 - Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

- Here in chapter 22, we turn a corner of sorts as we near the end of this book and with it we also are near the end of David's life.
- At first read, this chapter can appear to be out of place chronologically because it's the record of one of the Psalms of David.
- More specifically Psalm 18, which, other than a few parts is virtually identical to this particular Psalm of praise and thanksgiving.

Charles Spurgeon of this says, "We have another form of this Psalm with significant variations ... and this suggests the idea that it was sung by David at different times when he reviewed his own remarkable history, and observed the gracious hand of God in it all."

1 Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.

- It seems this song must have been one of David's favorites for good reasons chief of which is it praises God for His goodness.
- It's been suggested that as David nears the end of His life, he wants the Lord to be the only one that receives all the praise.
- I suppose you could say he in no way wants all that God has done for him to be seen as having anything at all to do with him.

G. Campbell Morgan – "Such convictions—of the absolute sovereignty of Jehovah, of His omnipotent power to deliver, of the necessity for obedience to His law, and of assurance that in the case of such obedience He ever acts for His people—constituted the underlying strength of David's character."

2 And he said: "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; 3 The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence. 4 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

- It's easy to ready through this and miss the true meaning of this, especially when it comes to the descriptions of God in verse 2.
- Namely, the Lord is my rock, fortress and my deliverer. First, the Lord as my rock speaks to the importance of a firm foundation.
- If the foundation isn't rock solid in the Lord then it's futile to have a fortress, which speaks to the importance of God's protection.

- Not only is the Lord our rock solid foundation and protective fortress, He is also our deliverer and our strength in whom we trust.
- He is my shield, such that He protects me from the weapons the enemy forges against me. He is also the horn of my salvation.
- The horn speaks of power and glory, which is an apt emblem of the power of Jesus Christ to save us for the glory of the Father.

- It's interesting that David would go on to say that the Lord is his stronghold, refuge, and Savior, who saves him from violence.
- If there were ever a man of God who was on the receiving end of violence, it was David, yet God saved him from every bit of it.
- Verse 4 is more interesting where he says he calls upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised, and be saved from his enemies.

- The reason this is so interesting is because in verse 1 we're told that David was delivered from all his enemies and from Saul.
- In other words, there's a distinction made between Saul and all the enemies of David, which indicates Saul wasn't an enemy.
- While David was Saul's enemy, Saul was never David's enemy. This speaks to the character of this man after God's own heart.

5 "When the waves of death surrounded me, The floods of ungodliness made me afraid. 6 The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me. 7 In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry entered His ears.

- One of the best things we can do particularly when it comes to a Psalm such as this is to insert our own difficulty into the text.
- The reason being is that it will personalize the scriptures and make it both practical and applicable to that situation in my life.
- As such, I can be greatly encouraged and comforted knowing that in my distress, the Lord will hearken unto the voice of my cry.

8 "Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry. 9 Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it. 10 He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet. 11 He rode upon a cherub, and flew; And He was seen upon the wings of the wind. 12 He made darkness canopies around Him, Dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. 13 From the brightness before Him Coals of fire were kindled. 14 "The LORD thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice. 15 He sent out arrows and scattered them; Lightning bolts, and He vanquished them. 16 Then the channels of the sea were seen, The foundations of the world were uncovered, At the rebuke of the LORD, At the blast of the breath of His nostrils.

- You'll forgive me for oversimplifying this but I see it as a loving heavenly father moving heaven and earth for one of his children.
- We as earthly fathers do anything and stop at nothing to tax the moon and the stars for our children, how much more does God.
- Not only does He hear from on high and hearken to the voice of my cry, He acts on my behalf and delivers me from my enemy.

I like how one commentator said it, "What is most impressive ... is the magnificent way the psalmist describes God rising from his throne in heaven in response to his servant's cry, parting the clouds, and descending to fight the king's battles accompanied by earthquakes, thunder, storms, and lightning."

Another commentator had this to say, "When God came He spoke up on David's behalf, commanding all creation to respond to His passionate desire to deliver His child."

17 "He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters. 18 He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me; For they were too strong for me. 19 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support. 20 He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me. 21 "The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. 22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, And have not wickedly departed from my God. 23 For all His judgments were before me; And as for His statutes, I did not depart from them. 24 I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity. 25 Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to my cleanness in His eyes. 26 "With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; 27 With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. 28 You will save the humble people; But Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down.

- This part of the Psalm can present a problem at first read by virtue of the fact that David was both an adulterer and murderer.
- Some commentators suggest this portion of the Psalm indicates that it may have been written prior to his sin with Bathsheba.
- The problem with that is verse one of this chapter seems to indicate that David had sung this Psalm towards the end of his life.
- I suppose its possible that this may have been written prior but if it were it would place David in a position of self-righteousness.
- I would suggest that upon closer examination you will see a distinction that's made here, in that, he's dealing with the enemy.
- Let me explain, before God, I am a wretched sinner, whereas before the enemy conversely I'm a righteous and blameless saint.

Charles Spurgeon - "Before God the man after God's own heart was a humble sinner, but before his slanderers he could with unblushing face speak of the 'cleanness of his hands' and the righteousness of his life."

G. Campbell Morgan - "In [David's] words we have revealed the principles of relationship between God and man. God is to man what man is to God."

1 Corinthians 1:30 (NIV) — 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

29 "For You are my lamp, O LORD; The LORD shall enlighten my darkness. 30 For by You I can run against a troop; By my God I can leap over a wall. 31 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. 32 "For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God? 33 God is my strength and power, And He makes my way perfect. 34 He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places. 35 He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. 36 "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your gentleness has made me great.

- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that there's a striking contrast in his description of the Lord.
- On one hand God strengthens David's arms so that they bend a bow of bronze, on the other God's gentleness made him great.

G. Campbell Morgan, "We might brave the lion; we are vanquished by the Lamb. We could withstand the scathing look of scorn; but when the gentle Lord casts on us the look of ineffable tenderness, we go out to weep bitterly."

37 You enlarged my path under me; So my feet did not slip. 38 "I have pursued my enemies and destroyed them; Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed. 39 And I have destroyed them and wounded them, So that they could not rise; They have fallen under my feet. 40 For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose against me. 41 You have also given me the necks of my enemies, So that I destroyed those who hated me. 42 They looked, but there was none to save; Even to the LORD, but He did not answer them. 43 Then I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth; I trod them like dirt in the streets, And I spread them out. 44 "You have also delivered me from the strivings of my people; You have kept me as the head of the nations. A people I have not known shall serve me. 45 The foreigners submit to me; As soon as they hear, they obey me. 46 The foreigners fade away, And come frightened from their hideouts.

- It's interesting to note that David didn't only battle against enemies; he also had to battle against the strivings of his own people.
- The reason I point this out is because from my own personal experience, battling the strivings of people can be infinitely worse.
- The reason being is that sadly, the strivings of people hurts much deeper than the battling against an enemy could ever be.

47 "The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let God be exalted, The Rock of my salvation! 48 It is God who avenges me, And subdues the peoples under me; 49 He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man. 50 Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name. 51 "He is the tower of salvation to His king, And shows mercy to His anointed, To David and his descendants forevermore."

- This is pure praise of God on the part of David for all that He has done. David sings praises to the Lord the tower of salvation.

Charles Spurgeon - "To be saved singing is to be saved indeed. Many are saved mourning and doubting; but David had such faith that he could fight singing, and with the battle with a song still on his lips."